

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 46-48, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, amend Claims 20, 26, 41 and 44, and add Claims 49-51. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A communication system comprising:  
a source node;  
one or more destination nodes, ~~each of which includes a receiving buffer~~; and  
a controller adapted to set a logical connection between the source node and the one or more destination nodes and notify the source node and the one or more destination nodes, ~~regarding the logical connection, wherein~~  
wherein the controller is adapted to notify the source node and the one or more destination nodes of first information representing the logical connection and second information that is unique to the controller,  
the source node is adapted to divide data to be transmitted to the one or more destination nodes into a plurality of segment data, and transfer each of the segment data with the first and second information for identifying the logical connection sent notified by the controller to the one or more destination nodes, and

each of the one or more destination nodes includes a receiving buffer, and is adapted to store each segment data in the receiving buffer.

Claims 21-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A communication method for a communication system that includes a source node, one or more destination nodes, ~~each of which includes a receiving buffer, and a controller adapted to set a logical connection between the source node and the one or more destination nodes and notify the source node and the one or more destination nodes the logical connection,~~ the method comprising steps of:

setting [[the]] a logical connection between the source node and one or more destination nodes;

notifying the source node and the one or more destination nodes of first information representing the logical connection and second information that is unique to the controller;

dividing data to be transmitted to the one or more destination nodes into a plurality of segment data;

transferring each of the segment data with the first and second information for identifying the logical connection notified sent by the controller from the source node to the one or more destination nodes; and

storing each of the segment data in [[the]] a receiving buffer of each of the one or more destination nodes.

Claims 27-35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): The communication system according to claim 20, wherein each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to notify the source node of information about a size of the receiving buffer ~~to the source node~~ after preparation for receiving the segment data is completed.

Claims 37 and 38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (previously presented) The communication system according to claim 20, wherein the source node and the one or more destination nodes include a data communication unit that conforms with an IEEE1394-1995 standard.

Claim 40 (canceled)

Claim 41 (currently amended): The ~~communication~~ method according to claim 26, further comprising a step of notifying the source node of information about a size of the receiving buffer from each of the one or more destination nodes ~~to the source node~~ after preparation for receiving the segment data is completed.

Claims 42 and 43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (previously presented) The communication method according to claim 26, wherein the source node and the one or more destination nodes include a data communication unit that conforms with an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.

Claims 45-48 (canceled)

Claim 49 (new): A controller comprising:  
a control unit adapted to set a logical connection between a source node and one or more destination nodes,  
wherein the controller is adapted to notify the source node and one or more destination nodes of first information representing the logical connection and second information that is unique to the controller,  
wherein the source node is adapted to divide data to be transmitted to the one or more destination nodes into a plurality of segment data, and transfer each of the segment data with the first and second information notified by the controller to the one or more destination nodes, and  
wherein each of the one or more destination nodes includes a receiving buffer and is adapted to store each of the segment data in the receiving buffer.

Claim 50 (new): The controller according to claim 49, wherein each of the one or more destination nodes is adapted to notify the communication apparatus of information about a size of the receiving buffer to after preparation for receiving the segment data is completed.

**Claim 51 (new):** The controller according to claim 49, further comprising a data communication unit that conforms with an IEEE 1394-1995 standard.